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RELATIONS

JENNINGS: President Reagan today reacted to the Soviet president's remarks yesterday on the subject of dialogue between the superpowers. And at the White House today, Mr. Reagan told us he was willing to join the Soviets if they were willing to talk. Well, yesterday Mr. Andropov said practical deeds are needed to convince the Soviets that Washington is serious.

JENNINGS: In the meantime, the Soviets are sending another message just off the East Coast. Here's our Pentagon correspondent, John McWethy.

MCWETHY: U.S. intelligence sources tell ABC News that the Soviet Union has significantly beefed up its ballistic missile submarine presence off the U.S. Atlantic Coast in the last few weeks. After the U.S. deployed new Pershing and Cruise missiles in Western Europe, the Soviets threatened to put more of their nuclear missiles closer to America's shores. Analysts now say this is how the Russians apparently plan to make good on their threat. The Soviets routinely have two or three of what the U.S. calls 'Yankee class' missile submarines off the Atlantic coast. Intelligence sources say they have two today, each armed with missiles with a range of 1,600 miles. What the Soviets do not routinely have in the Northern Atlantic are the newer Delta class missile boats armed with missiles capable of hitting targets 4,000 miles away. Intelligence sources say there are now two Delta class submarines on patrol more than 1,000 miles off the U.S. coast, and yet another is moving from its home base near Murmansk, south. Because the Soviets moved the Deltas into the open ocean, the U.S. can more closely monitor the submarines, and they are more vulnerable. The Soviets appear to want the U.S. to know what they are doing. American analysts say the only advantage this new deployment pattern provides the Soviets is if they fired missiles from the Delta, the warheads could reach the U.S. within 10 to 15 minutes instead of the 20 to 25 minutes if fired from their normal patrol area above the Arctic Circle. Though the debate continues about why the Soviets have made this most recent move, analysts contend at this point it appears that it is more significant from a political point of view than a military one. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.